Montgomery County Council

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COUNCIL UNVEILS THREE NEW TOOLS TO BOOST CITIZEN INPUT, INFORMATION

The Montgomery County Council today kicked off a new effort to make Montgomery County government even more open, accessible, and transparent to County residents.

The centerpiece of the effort is the installation of the Pictron system. This system, accessed via the County Council's website homepage (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council), allows residents to actually watch video from past Council sessions, accompanied by a written transcript of the meeting that rolls next to the screen, and search throughout the video and transcripts. Current Council sessions are already video streamed live on the website.

"With Pictron, you don't have to wonder or try to remember what your Councilmember did or said, you can go straight to the videotape," said Council President Tom Perez. "This is just one more way for County residents to know what we are doing and why on issues critical to them and their families."

Residents can search among various Council meetings and also search by topic and word to get right to the part of the clip or transcript they are interested in.

In addition, the Council's homepage also allows residents to sign-on to the County Council "list serve" in order to receive information about the broad range of issues that come before the Council – or to receive Council agendas, public meeting notices or news releases.

Finally, the Council also has placed on its website an easy guide to figuring out how Councilmembers voted on issues in the full Council, including amendments. The significant votes are listed chronologically starting with the beginning of 2005 to the present.   (more…)

"Information is power," said Council President Perez. "The more people know what's going on with their County government, the better off we all are."

These features are in addition to tools already on the Council's website, including the text of Council bills, resolutions, and zoning text amendments, as well as advance copies of analysts' packets and materials used by Councilmembers during sessions

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